

# Cory Family Society Newsletter

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October 2017

## CORY FAMILY SOCIETY REUNION LANSING, MICHIGAN Thursday, August 24 to Sunday, August 27, 2017

HOSTED BY EARL CORY, VP/WEBMASTER/MEETING COORDINATOR

AND

JAN COREY ARNETT (THOMAS/HARPOLE)

Coming in from as far away as California, Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, and New York, and as close by as Michigan, members arrived at various times beginning on Thursday.

Bright and early Friday morning we set out for the Michigan State Capitol Building.

Michiganders consider themselves to have achieved statehood in 1834. However, because of a border disagreement with Ohio, statehood was not official until 1837.

The building was completed in 1879.

Our tour begins in what once was the Treasurer's office. Note the safe. In the early days, employees cashed their paychecks in this room.

We see a piece of Vermont marble flooring. Most of what appears to be marble in the Capitol's interior is actually faux-painted white pine, Michigan's state tree.



The House Chamber



The Senate Chamber

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Our guide's tip for getting the best shot of the dome.



We peek into the formal office of Governor Rick Snyder. His working office is in the nearby George W. Romney building.

From the Capitol, we walk to the Michigan Library and Historical Center



Housed in the east wing of the building (R), the Museum tells of Michigan's rich past, from prehistory to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Mural depicting the first people of Michigan.



Michigan's military history includes frontier conflicts, as well as battles in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The cannon is from the War of 1812.



Michigan's first governor, Stevens T. Mason. Age 23 at the start of his 1835-1840 term, he holds the record as the nation's youngest governor.



No Civil War battles took place in Michigan, but over 90,000 Michigan soldiers, including some women in disguise, fought for the Union.



A “Big Wheel” used to haul lumber for the nation’s building boom. From 1870 to 1890, clear-cut logging stripped Michigan’s forests. Logging continues today but very selectively.

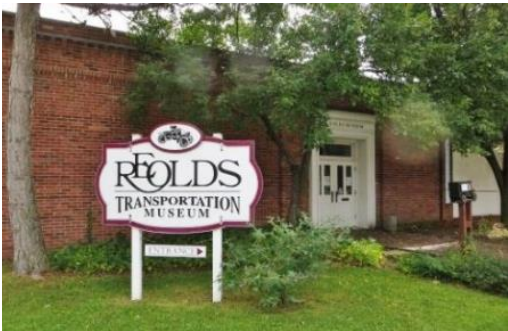


Large copper and iron mines operated in Michigan for about 100 years, beginning in the 1800s. A current resurgence of interest in mining is welcomed by some and opposed by others.



Stevie Wonder played this Chickering baby grand piano while studying classical music at the Michigan School for the Blind in Lansing.

After lunch we visit the R E Olds Transportation Museum. Ransom Eli Olds was a pioneer of the automobile industry. His innovations include very early steam and gasoline engine driven cars and the stationary automobile assembly line, pre-cursor to Henry Ford’s moving assembly line.



By 1899, Olds had lost control of his company to investors, who moved the company from Lansing to Detroit. Back in Lansing, Olds founded the REO Motor Company.

The company produced cars as well as the first pickup truck, the REO Speedwagon.



Olds also patented the first gasoline-powered lawn mower and started the Ideal Power Mower Company to manufacture it.



Enter through the gift shop!



Inspecting an Oldsmobile poster.

Early in the 1900s, Olds turned his attention to land development in Florida and to his R E Olds Foundation, founded in 1914, which continues to support community-based education, family, health care, animal welfare, environmental and other causes in the Greater Lansing area.

Friday night's dinner is at Corey's Lounge, discovered by several members earlier in the day.



Cory Cousins in spirit. Bill and Tom Corey, whose grandfather, Said N. Corey, born in Syria the son of Nakad Khoury, immigrated in 1912. Said's son Robert Corey, Bill and Tom's dad, opened Corey's in 1977.

Saturday morning we head back to the Michigan Library and Historical Center to visit the Michigan Archives. In the west wing of the building, the Archives is responsible for preserving the records of Michigan government and other public institutions as well as holding and exhibiting documents, maps, photographs, and film related to Michigan.



Guest speaker, genealogist Jim Jackson, tells of the resources available.



A "mug book," one of thousands of items in the storage area.



Verifying family information brought to the reunion.

After lunch we have a free afternoon. A small group meets informally in the hotel lobby to share information and figure out how far back their John of Southold ancestors branched off. Later, Earl joins in and updates the Cory Family Society database. No picture, but it's productive and fun!

Other members take the self-guided walking tour of the Old Town or visit various points of interest in the Lansing area.

Sunday morning, we have our membership meeting at brunch before saying goodbye.

## Our 2017 Cory Family Portrait



BACK ROW: John Corey, Earl Cory, Brent Cook (Robin DeBlake's husband), Sue Corey (John Corey's wife), Carolyn Corey, Roxanne Seeber, Kelly Marshall Reeve, Gail Cole, Patty Lesch, Janet Tuttle, Robin DeBlake, Steve Cole (Gail Cole's husband), Marj Corey Fenili (Carolyn Corey's sister), Rusty Cory (Joe Cory's uncle). FRONT ROW: Joe Cory, Chris Koehler, Chris Cory (Earl Cory's wife), Marty Marshall (Kelly Marshall Reeve's mother), Irene Cory DeBlake (Gail Cole, Patty Lesch, and Robin DeBlake's mother), Sally Friedland (Janet Tuttle's sister), Nicolaus Cory (Joe Cory's son). MISSING: Jan Corey Arnett, Wayne Furman (Janet Tuttle and Sally Friedland's father), Terry and Sherrie Rohweder.

### CORY FAMILY SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES *DRAFT* SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 2017 Lansing, Michigan

Members present: Earl and Chris Cory, John and Sue Corey, Christine Koehler, Carolyn Corey, Marjorie (Corey) Fenili, Irene (Cory) DeBlake, Brent Cook and Robin (Cory) DeBlake, Steve and Gail (Cory) Cole, Russell Cory, Patty (Cory) Lesch, Joe Cory and son Nicolaus Cory, Martha Marshall, Kelly Marshall Reeve, Wayne Furman, Janet (Furman) Tuttle, Sally (Furman) Friedland and Roxanne (Cory) Seeber.

Terry and Sherrie (Corey) Rohweder attended the various events, but did not attend the meeting. Doyle and Jan Corey Arnett joined the group during our tour of the Michigan State Archives. Jan arranged for our speaker, Jim Jackson.

Vice President Earl Cory opened the meeting at 10:55 A.M.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Earl conducted two drawings for two Jackknives from the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, Illinois. They were embossed with 1) "Corey" and 2) "Cory" which were awarded to the respective winners. Carolyn read the minutes from the last meeting in Sept. 2015 which were approved as read.

The current treasurer's report from James Corey was not available, but Earl referred to our last newsletter, May 18, 2017, when our balance was \$9,961. *Ed. note: Jim's October 1 update shows cash balance now \$10, 147.*

There were no DNA or genealogy reports available from our genealogist Thomas Corey.

Earl reported on the website status of the databases which he is gradually updating as he obtains new information. He has also been sending out individual updated reports upon request and will continue to do so. The \$12 annual website fee has been paid by Earl in lieu of paying his annual dues. The policy has been to put the newsletter on the website after one year.

Earl also advised members to download their DNA results to GEDMATCH.COM from any DNA test site. There was also a brief discussion about advisability of using RootsMagic or Ancestry, etc.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. *Location and date of our next meeting.* Joseph (Joe) Cory of Des Moines, Iowa, volunteered to host the next meeting there in 2019, tentatively June. It was suggested that a bus be hired if there are tours, provided enough people sign up ahead of time for the meeting. Earl will continue as meeting coordinator for this event.
2. *Discussion about the membership DUES* and the possibility of dropping them altogether resulted in unanimous agreement to no longer charge for the email newsletter. Carolyn reported that there are approximately 350 current, past and potential members (including approximately 100 paid 2017 members) in the email database. She will in the future send newsletters to the entire database for free.
3. OFFICERS
  - a. *President* - John Corey (current VP) volunteered to take over the presidency from Fred Corey who has resigned. Fred will continue as a member of the board as past-president, replacing Art Corey. Election was held and the position of President was filled with John Corey.
  - b. *Vice-President* - Earl Cory will continue in this role and as webmaster and temporary meeting coordinator. The Articles of Constitution say that the Society has one or more vice-presidents. In the past, we have had two, thus, with the election of John Corey as president, we have a traditional second vice president opening.
  - c. *Treasurer* - Christina Cory has volunteered to take over this position from James Corey, who has resigned. She will contact James and arrange for funds transfer.
  - d. *Secretary* - Carolyn Corey will continue to take minutes and maintain the email database for sending out newsletters.
  - e. *Newsletter Editors* - Luke Davidson and Christine Koehler have switched/modified roles so that she is now the Editor and he will be the Assistant Editor, a new position. The position of Newsletter Coordinator was eliminated.

Chris K. asked for photos to be emailed to her of this meeting to be published in the upcoming newsletter.

Earl will set up a Facebook account for the Cory Family Society.

Earl proposed that we no longer charge dues for membership since we no longer have any expenses except the reunion meetings. Seconded and approved.

Earl proposed that we use the current funds to finance DNA testing for current members of the society. These funds could be used to reimburse members with the surname Cory/Corey performing DNA testing through FamilyTreeDNA. The exact level of testing and whether to provide for the Autosomal Family Finder function was left for further discussion. The results of the tests would be managed by Thomas Corey. Seconded and approved.

John and Joe agreed to work together on the "Great Book of John 1" from descendants of John of Long Island. (See Sept. 2015 minutes for a description of this title).

Joseph (Joe) Cory agreed to host the next meeting, sometime in 2019, in Des Moines, Iowa. His Uncle Russell Cory agreed to help Joe.

Earl asked for a vote on paying for the meeting expenses of approximately \$270 from our treasury. Approved.

Move for adjournment approved at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Corey

CFS secretary

## MEET THE BOARD

**John Corey, President.** (John of Southold, member since before 2006). Following the retirement of Past President Fred Corey, John looks forward to engaging more actively in the Society. Born an inventor, trained as an engineer, and “suffering from a life of serial entrepreneurship,” John and his wife Sue live (as Makers of Fine Times since 1976) on the east bank of the Hudson River in Melrose, New York. John maintains the John Corey database.

**Fred Corey, Past President.** (William of Portsmouth, longtime member, President 2000-2017). A retired civil engineer now living in Arizona, Fred has worked in several areas of the western US for the aircraft industry and the Federal government, in irrigation scheduling and airport design.

**Earl Cory, Vice President/Webmaster/Meeting Coordinator.** (Thomas of Chelmsford/Harpole, member over 20 years). Earl maintains the [CoryFamSoc.com](http://CoryFamSoc.com) website, the Cory Family Society Databases and also coordinates society meetings. A retired physicist and computer system administrator/manager, he was born in Watertown, New York, and migrated to Los Angeles in 1947. He and his wife Christina live in Pacific Grove in the Monterey, California, area.

**Carolyn Corey, Secretary.** (William of Portsmouth, longtime member). Carolyn and her husband, Preston Miller, own and operate Four Winds Indian Trading Post on the Flathead Indian Reservation in St. Ignatius, Montana. Publications and talks include such subjects as Indian artifacts and trade cloth. She is also the secretary for a local historical society and an organizing officer of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Christina Cory, Treasurer.** Chris takes over for retiring Treasurer Jim Corey. She has been vicariously involved with genealogy for the past 50 years -- that's how long she and Earl have been married. She enjoys the periodic Cory gatherings but does not like to keep track of the approximately 100,000+ “begats” Earl has gathered. Her heritage is Mexican-American but her DNA indicates that she is a world citizen: Africa, Europe, Asia, North and Central America. Whew!!!

**Thomas Corey, Genealogist.** (William of Portsmouth, longtime member). Thomas administers our DNA project as well as doing genealogy lookups. A Vietnam Era veteran, he is retired from the manufacturing facility he first went to work for after discharge. Living in Nebraska, he now does IT work part time and helps in the local genealogy library. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society.

**Christine Koehler, Newsletter Editor.** (John of Southold, member since 2013). A retired educational administrator and teacher in Cortland, New York, Chris first became interested in

genealogy through the extensive research done by her parents. She is fascinated by the way genealogy brings history to life. Her Corey connection follows Coreys from New York to Canada to Michigan to Colorado and back to New York.

**Luke C. Davidson, Newsletter Assistant Editor.** (John of Southold, member since 2014). Luke recently completed his Master's degree at the School of Information Science at the University of Kentucky. He and his wife Lola will soon relocate to Massachusetts. Experienced in libraries and archives, Luke has written for a history and genealogy magazine as well as editing our newsletter for the past three years. He is a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. ★ ★ ★

***PLAN AHEAD !!***  
**2019 REUNION IN DES MOINES, IOWA**  
Hosted by Joe Cory  
[josephccory@hotmail.com](mailto:josephccory@hotmail.com)

**Our Cory Cousins**

**UK CORY FAMILY FRIENDS EVENT  
NORTHAMPTON, JUNE 2017**

*condensed from Marilyn Cory's write-up, with photos from Colin Cory and the internet*

ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 16 TO 19, THE CORY FAMILY FRIENDS SOCIAL GROUP, FORMED AFTER THE DISSOLUTION OF THE UK CORY SOCIETY, GATHERED IN HARPOLE, NORTHAMPTON, ENGLAND, FOR THEIR FIRST ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER. OUR THOMAS OF CHELMSFORD (MASSACHUSETTS) ARRIVED FROM HARPOLE IN THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AS DID GILES CORY OF SALEM WITCHCRAFT TRIAL FAME.



*Cory Family Friends and others at Marilyn and Colin's home, Cory Lodge, in Harpole.*

Saturday began in the village of Grafton Regis, where some of the saga of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn took place. Marilyn tells us that Grafton Regis Village Hall, was “the starting point for an enthralling journey through time, acted by various villagers costumed as historic figures connected to the village’s history.”



The home of Elizabeth Woodville, who became the wife of King Edward IV, was Grafton Manor in this village. “King Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville’s daughter, Princess Elizabeth of York, married Henry VII, which began the Tudor Dynasty, bringing the two houses of white and red roses together.

“Elizabeth of York and Henry VII’s son, Henry VIII, spent most of the summers of his reign in Grafton Regis and it is said that he met with Ann Boleyn here.”

On their walking tour, the group met Henry VIII on the green nearby and watched the drama play out as Henry’s request for a Papal annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Ann Boleyn was refused.



“Discussions were partly conducted at Grafton in the summer of 1529 and so was born the Church of England.



“We returned to Grafton Regis Village Hall for a feast through the ages, sampling history through food from the eleventh to the twentieth century, each course representing an era in Grafton’s fascinating history. Our host explained that the ingredients were not strictly to the recipes of the allotted centuries but instead pleasantly adapted, for instance, as there are no longer any wild boar roaming around locally, we had a main course of pork in cider, close enough for the Tudor meal.”

On Sunday, the group set off for the Althorp Estate, ancestral home of Princess Diana and now her burial site. Marilyn writes, “There has been a house at Althorp since Sir John Spencer acquired a 300 acre estate in 1508.



“Photography is not allowed inside the house but we were permitted to take photographs of our group whilst waiting for our tour.

“One of the hall doors opened behind [the picture taker] and Lord Spencer himself showed three of his personal guests out. I was surprised to see him and he certainly looked surprised to see us all sitting in his grand entrance hall!

“Adding to the surprise, the butler peeped through the doorway just as the photo was being taken.

“Our excellent guide told us about each room and its contents. We had a very interesting tour of the house, giving us an insight into the Spencer heritage. They have a very large collection of paintings by Rubens, Van Dyck, Reynolds and Gainsborough.

“Those of us who hadn’t been to Althorp before walked down to the lake to view Princess Diana’s final resting place on the island in the lake.”

On Monday, “we met at Harpole All Saints Church for a ‘Walk & Talk’ around the village, given by a speaker from Harpole Heritage, featuring trade and industry and family connections.”

Cory has been a name in the area for at least 500 years. “It is surprising how many Cory houses there are in such a small area and how those houses, built so very long ago, are still standing and being lived in today, although no longer by Corys!”



The group also was shown some Cory box tombs in the churchyard.



“One of these is in sore need of renovation and it is hoped will be restored with funds donated to Harpole Heritage by the Cory Society some time ago in thanks for their help with our research.”

Marilyn ends her account with word of next year’s Cory Family Friends reunion, “to be held in Pickering, Yorkshire, which will include a steam train experience to the coast at Whitby. Look forward to seeing everyone there!”

## THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORY REUNION ASSOCIATION

Joe Cory, picking up the trail started a couple of years ago by John Corey, is looking into what has become of the WPCRA as well as The Cory Bell and The “Grate” Book – the prized Cory artifacts last known to be in their possession. The “Grate” Book had been on loan to the Little Beaver Historical Society in Darlington, Pennsylvania, but last we knew it was back with one of the descendants. The WPACRA website has had no postings since 2010, and attempts so far to contact officers or other members have not been successful. Joe asks anyone with information to contact him at [josephccory@hotmail.com](mailto:josephccory@hotmail.com). ★★★

### A Cory Family Story

## UNCOVERING MY PAST

*by Andy Shetland (William of Portsmouth)*



My father, Andrew Donald Shetland, was adopted in 1952 after he was born to a young girl who could not care for him.

I didn’t learn about this adoption until a few years ago while helping one of my children with a family tree school project.

I then became interested in who I was and where I was from, and really started digging. It took me a bit to uncover everything and discover our biological roots.

But, in the end, this is what I found as a descendant along the William of Portsmouth line.

12	Andrew Fletcher Shetland (1977 New London CT-)+Sarah Ann Rogers (1977-)
11	Andrew Donald Shetland <b>adopted name</b> (1952 Norwich CT-)+Laura Lee Brumble (1959-)
10	William Henry Corey Jr. (1934 New London CT-1990 Marion KY)+Jane Robinson (1937-)
9	William Henry Corey Sr. (1903 Windham CT-1954 Hopkinton RI)+Sadie Mae Chapman (1855-1966)
8	William Archibald Corey (1875 Providence RI-1960 E.Lyme CT)+Rachel Lydia Richmond (1883-1970)
7	Paris Henry Corey (1839 Fulton NY-1904 Plainfield CT)+Amy Anne Robbins (1846-1920)
6	John Hamilton Corey Sr. (1807 Greenwich RI-1889 Plainfield CT)+Melissa Maria Wright (1810-1890)
5	Paris Corey (1757 North Kingstown RI-1844 Plainfield CT)+Lydia Amasa Pratt (1787-1875)
4	John Corey (1717 Kingstown RI-1817 Kingstown, RI)+Orpha Hamilton (1720-1765)
3	John Corey (1687 East Greenwich RI-1768 Kingstown RI)+Elizabeth Mary Evans (1692-1766)
2	John Cory (1658 Portsmouth RI-1712 Kingstown RI)+Elizabeth "MinnetanKoo" Gasesett (1661-1713)
1	William Cory (1628 Bristol England- 1681 Portsmouth RI)+Mary Earle (1636-1718)

As you can see, I am the second Andrew Shetland. My father's parents died before I had a chance to meet them, so when I learned that he was adopted, I had been hopeful that maybe I'd have a chance to meet my birth grandparents. In 2012 my dad started with the adoption agency, and since we found that my birth grandfather had passed away in 1990, they immediately released his name and a brief but touching narrative about the adoption. I used that story to find my grandmother's name in 1951 directories and 1940 census records, and went from there. Initially my dad and I had submitted DNA, hoping it would be that easy to unravel the whole mystery, but it was the name and adoption record that worked.

Unfortunately, not only had William H. Corey – my grandfather – passed away, my living grandmother, who is now 80, was unwilling to meet me or my father.

In the search I learned a lot about my grandfather. He enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1952 from Connecticut and was in Kentucky when he was medically retired from the service in 1970. His three living sons are in the Marion, Kentucky, area. They would all be uncles of mine, however I've never met them and have only talked to one of them once on the phone in 2013. I imagine that they must have settled there sometime in the late 70s or early 80s. However, I have met some of my aunts, and I have spoken with his surviving widow.

From what I can tell, my grandfather Bill Jr's home life was a bit unstable. His father, Bill Sr, had taken Sadie as a wife from a cousin of his. I don't know the details around it, but that alone seems a bit scandalous. Sadie was quite a bit older than Bill Sr. After they had two children, my grandfather Bill Jr and one who died within a year of birth, Bill Sr began an affair with a younger woman. They had three children that they gave up for adoption during the affair and then another three that they kept after they married.

All of this family drama influenced Bill Jr to insist on marrying Jane Robinson when she became pregnant in 1952. Jane was only 15, and Bill Jr worked for her parents in their grocery store. But

her parents refused to let them marry. They said that Bill Jr was unfit to wed their daughter. So, his first son – my father – was given up for adoption.

What I learned about my grandfather in my search made me proud. He had fought to marry Jane when he learned she was pregnant. Then when her parents refused to allow this and insisted on adoption, he left to serve in the United States Marine Corps and never went back. He served honorably during the Vietnam and Korean War eras. He probably would have stayed for life, but was injured in a motor vehicle accident that cost him the use of one of his legs. Later in life, he lamented to his family that he had one regret, that he never had been able to meet his son who he'd given up for adoption all those years before.

Bill Jr and his first wife had three daughters in the late 50s, early 60s. He and his second wife had no children. After his second wife's death, Bill married once more. He and his wife had three sons, and stayed in Marion, Kentucky, until his death in 1990. I think during his time in the Marines that he lived in North Carolina, Kentucky, and California.



*William Henry Corey,  
US Marine Corps*



*Andrew Fletcher Shetland,  
US Army*

That is all I know of my grandfather. I am quite sad that I never had the opportunity to meet him. I am proud of what I have learned about him so far. And, I am confident that he would be proud of me. His apparent loyalty to family and dedicated service to our country are two things that I have in common with him and am proud to have learned.

*Ed. Note: For more information, Andy can be contacted at [andrew\\_shetland@yahoo.com](mailto:andrew_shetland@yahoo.com). He has done autosomal DNA at Ancestry.com, 23andMe.com and FamilyTreeDNA.com. His FTDNA Cory Project 37-marker Y-DNA, submitted at the suggestion of our genealogist, Thomas Corey, is conclusive proof that he is of the William line.★★★*

### **IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER !!**

Suggestions? Questions? Scattered notes? Complete articles? Send whatever you can think of to [editor@coryfamsoc.com](mailto:editor@coryfamsoc.com).

Famous or infamous, it's all in the family – and pictures are great!

### **2018 NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE**

<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Article Due Date</u>
<b>March</b>	<b>February 2</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>May 4</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>September 7</b>

# GENEALOGY ON THE GO

by Luke Davidson

During the summers of 2015 and 2016, my wife, Lola, and I had the opportunity to travel through many states. Lola had an internship both summers in Massachusetts, and we drove there to and from Kentucky a few times. As usual, I wanted to make some genealogical stops and Lola graciously obliged.

In August 2015, on the way home from Massachusetts, we stopped in Olivesburg, at the Old Olivesburg Cemetery, a small cemetery beside the Methodist Church, where my last ancestor who carried the Cory surname was buried.



Sarah Cory Cantwell (1801-1865) and her husband Thomas Cantwell (1798-1867) shared a tombstone near the far end of the cemetery near a line of shade trees. I was excited to finally visit.



Lola Davidson

**SARAH**  
WIFE OF  
THOMAS CANTWELL  
DIED  
APRIL 3, 1865  
*Aged*  
63 YR 3 MOS & 9 DS.

**THOMAS CANTWELL**  
DIED  
March 20, 1867  
Aged  
68 Y 5 M 16 D.



Lola Davidson

I first learned about the Cantwells and Corys during my college years, when genealogy and my Cory branch became increasingly important to me. I found them listed on the Long Island Genealogy website and then on the Cory Family Society website. These websites helped me to discover that my Cory line was also connected to a line back to Mayflower passenger and Compact signer, George Soule.

In August 2016, we stopped in New Jersey on the way home from Massachusetts. This time, we went to the towns of Rahway and Westfield. We first visited the Historic Rahway Cemetery (ca. 1724) and the gravesite of my ancestor Abner Cory (1748-1786), the grandfather of the above mentioned Sarah Cory Cantwell. His son, Joseph Freeman Cory, born in 1779 and who died at the age of three, is buried next to him.



Luke Davidson

HERE lies interred  
the Body of *Abner  
Cory*, who depart-  
ed this life Dece  
the 10<sup>th</sup> AD 1786.  
In the XXXIX Year of  
his age.

Joseph Freeman  
Son of Abner &  
Naomi Cory died  
March ye 18 1782  
In ye 3<sup>d</sup> year of his  
Age.



Luke Davidson

The inscription on the base of Abner’s tombstone is not readable. However, there is a plaque in the ground in front of the tombstone that reads:

ABNER CORY  
TEAMSTER NJ STATE MILITIA  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR  
1748 1786

Not far from Abner and his son is buried a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Abraham Clark (1726-1794), along with his wife Sarah Hatfield Clark (1728-1804). Clark’s inscription:

Firm and decided as a Patriot,  
Zealous and faithful as a friend to the public,  
He loved his country & adhered to her cause In the  
darkest hours of her struggles  
Against oppression.



Lola Davidson

In 1924, the local chapter of the DAR had the tombstones mounted in granite.

Abner Cory was in the Essex County Militia division of New Jersey’s state militia. It is meaningful to me that my ancestor fought for the cause that gave the Declaration its purpose. Abner’s wife, Naomi Freeman Cory (1752-1826), was the great-great granddaughter of Mayflower passenger, George Soule. I am descended from their first child, Aaron Cory (1772-1834) and his wife Elizabeth McGuire Cory (1782-1834 ), through their daughter Sarah Cory Cantwell and her husband Thomas Cantwell, and on down to my maternal grandparents.

Naomi outlived her husband and remarried to someone with the surname Ross. At some point in the future, I hope to find her grave as well. Based on old cemetery transcriptions, she is believed to have been buried in the Ayres Family Burying Ground in North Brunswick, New Jersey. I had heard that the graveyard might not be easily accessible, so we did not try to find it while in the area.

Our last stop in New Jersey was in the nearby town of Westfield. We visited the Presbyterian Church Burial Grounds where Abner's parents, John Cory IV (?-1768) and Martha Denham or Parkhurst Cory (?-1777), are buried.

HERE LIETH  
 y<sup>e</sup> Body of Martha  
 widow of John Cory  
 who died Sept. y<sup>e</sup> 24  
 1777 In y<sup>e</sup> 71 Year of  
 her Age

HERE LIETH  
 y<sup>e</sup> Body of M<sup>r</sup> John Cory  
 who departed this  
 Life August y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>  
 1768 In the 65<sup>th</sup>  
 Year of his  
 Age



Lola Davidson

Martha's surname has been given as either Denham or Parkhurst, and I have seen both of these names used interchangeably. ☆ ☆ ☆

## JOHN I LINES CERTIFIED BY THE MAYFLOWER SOCIETY

by Lynn Patterson-McBride (John of Southold)

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants recently certified another John I line from passenger George Soule through Abner Cory and Naomi Freeman Cory's son Aaron Cory (1772-1834), in addition to the three previously certified. The four approved lines are:

John Cory I+Ann Salmon, John Cory II+Mary Cornish, John Cory III+Priscilla Osborn, John Cory IV+Martha Denman/Parkhurst			
<i>George Soule+Mary Buckett</i>	<i>George Soule+Mary Buckett</i>	<i>George Soule+Mary Buckett</i>	<i>George Soule+Mary Buckett</i>
<i>Elizabeth Soule+Francis Walker</i>	<i>Elizabeth Soule+Francis Walker</i>	<i>Elizabeth Soule+Francis Walker</i>	<i>Elizabeth Soule+Francis Walker</i>
<i>Isaac Walker+Desire Shelly</i>	<i>Isaac Walker+Desire Shelly</i>	<i>Isaac Walker+Desire Shelly</i>	<i>Isaac Walker+Desire Shelly</i>
<i>Desire Walker+Joseph Freeman</i>	<i>Desire Walker+Joseph Freeman</i>	<i>Desire Walker+Joseph Freeman</i>	<i>Desire Walker+Joseph Freeman</i>
Naomi Freeman+ <b>Abner Cory</b>	Naomi Freeman+ <b>Abner Cory</b>	Naomi Freeman+ <b>Abner Cory</b>	Naomi Freeman+ <b>Abner Cory</b>
<b>Aaron Cory</b> +Elizabeth McGuire	<b>Aaron Cory</b> +Elizabeth McGuire	<b>Aaron Cory</b> +Elizabeth McGuire	<b>Aaron Cory</b> +Elizabeth McGuire
<b>Sarah Cory</b> +Thomas Cantwell	<b>Sarah Cory</b> +Thomas Cantwell	<b>Sarah Cory</b> +Thomas Cantwell	<b>Abner Cory</b> +Ann Carson
<b>Naomi Cantwell</b> +James Boyd	<b>Elizabeth Cantwell</b> +Henry Daniels	<b>Naomi Cantwell</b> +James Boyd	<b>*Hugh M. Cory</b> +Rachel Rankin
<b>Thomas Boyd</b> +Martha Watson	<b>J.F. Daniels</b> +Sallie Proctor	<b>Charles Boyd</b> +Emma Gurn	<b>Freeman A. Cory</b> +Sarah Van Camp
<b>Nora Boyd</b> +Elmer Patterson	<b>Edna Daniels</b> +Joe Durrant	<b>Mary Boyd</b> +Willis McMIndes	<b>Milton A. Cory</b> +Marian Amstutz
<b>Elmer Patterson</b> +Lois Forbes	<b>Laverne Durrant</b> +Glenn Rietdorf	<b>Robert McMIndes</b> +Betty Hayes	<b>Shirley J. Cory</b> +Heinrich Asenbauer
<b>Lynn Patterson-McBride</b>	<b>Private</b> +Private	<b>Daniel McMIndes</b>	<b>Julianne Asenbauer Huss</b>
	<b>Private</b> +Private		*A story about Hugh is coming up in the March 2018 newsletter.
	<b>Luke Davidson</b>		

As we closed this issue, we learned of another certified John descendant. More in a future issue.

Corys Slept Here

**THE CURTIS W. CORY HOUSE  
LE RAY, NEW YORK**

*by Earl Cory with Chris Koehler*

FROM MAINE TO CALIFORNIA, A NUMBER OF FORMER CORY HOMES ARE NOW MUSEUMS, BED AND BREAKFASTS, BUSINESSES, PRIVATE RESIDENCES – OR ABANDONED. THE CURTIS W. CORY MANSION, AT 26000 STATE ROUTE 283 (PEARL STREET) IS IN RURAL LERAY, NEW YORK, JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY OF WATERTOWN. LERAY WAS ORGANIZED IN 1806; CORYS WERE AMONG THE EARLY SETTLERS.

Earl Cory was born in Watertown and lived in LeRay about a mile down the road from the mansion,



*The Perley and Carrie Cory family in 1914.*

on the original Cory family farm, as had generations before him. Earl remembers local youngsters saying the mansion was haunted.

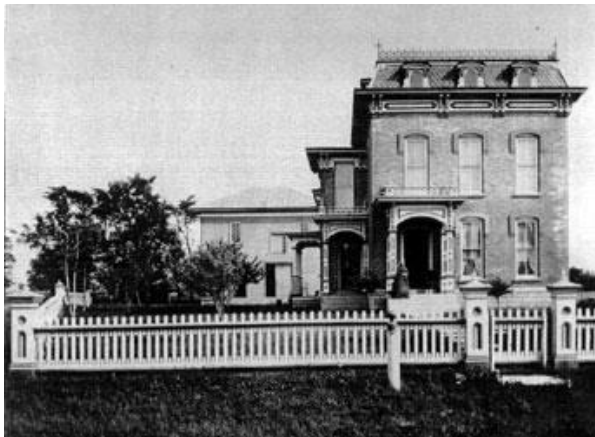
The old Cory farmhouse has been updated over the years and is still lived in.

When Earl was six, his family moved to California.



*Earl's photo taken in June 2013.*

Earl: Curtis William Cory (1820-1883) was my first cousin, three times removed. Our common ancestor was William "James" Cory, (1761-ca 1850) who came to New York from New Hampshire.



*Undated photos of the mansion. LEFT: with the carriage house, perhaps taken in the early days. RIGHT: likely taken later, the carriage house, picket fence, and decorative rooftop iron work are gone.*



*Taken by Earl in June 2013.*



*Taken by Chris in August 2017.*



Having been born in Massachusetts, William moved to New Hampshire after the Revolution. William's wife was Mary "Polly" Comstock (1768-1858). In the early 1800s, four of his kids decided it was too difficult to farm New Hampshire's rocks, so they moved west to the "Black River Country" in Jefferson County, New York. Another son ended up in Missouri.

Elijah Cory (1795-1880), one of William and Polly's children, was my great-great grandfather, the progenitor of my branch of the Cory family. In 1815, at the age of 20, Elijah settled in LeRay, at Sanford's Corners, where he was a blacksmith and horseshoer. He and his wife, Maria Clark Cory (1802-1864), owned about 90 acres and first lived in a log house by the creek.

In about 1820, on this acreage Elijah built their homestead, fronting on the Pearl Street Road near Five Corners. It was said that Maria did not want to move on the hill because there was no water. Elijah promised her a silk dress and dug a 14-foot well. They had plenty of water.

Sometime before 1820, William and Polly's sons brought their parents to New York from New Hampshire. William and Polly Comstock Cory appear the 1820 census in LeRay.

The Cory farm was inherited in turn by Elijah and Maria's grandsons, Sidney (1863-1949), Charles (1865-1940) and my grandfather, Perley (1881-1945). Perley bought out his brothers and remained on the farm until he had to sell in 1945 due to his poor health.

In 1947 my family made the cross country trek to California. My dad, Claude Cory (1915-2011), had been advised that housing out west was in such short supply that he should bring his own house. We hauled a 27-foot trailer behind our 1946 four-door Dodge.

The oldest of William and Polly Comstock Cory's sons to move to New York, Joseph Cory (1789-1848), was the father of Curtis W. Cory, who built the Cory mansion. Records vary as to the form his name took, whether Joshua, Josiah, or Joseph, but we know that he is the one person. We will call him Joseph.

Joseph served in the American forces at Ogdensburg, New York, in the War of 1812. Joseph's wife was Jane McMullen Cory (1797-1881). Returning to LeRay after the war, for the next forty years Joseph operated his farm and a large lime kiln near the house. His was the first patented lime kiln in the county and was supplied by enormous limestone deposits in the area. His lime was in demand throughout Northern New York.



*Curtis W. Cory*

Chris: In 1845, Joseph's son Curtis married Charlotte Waters (1820-1902). They had six children, four of whom survived to adulthood. By 1873, Curtis owned two large farms for a total of 300 acres, and being a successful farmer as well as stockholder and director of the Merchants Bank of Watertown, he built the mansion. The main house and the servants' section total over 4000 square feet in 12 rooms. The third floor was used as a ballroom.

Curtis died in 1883, after several years of ill health and the 1882 failure of the bank.

The following year, the properties were split up, with 90+ acres going to his three children George, Oscar, and Caroline. A fourth child had died before Curtis. The children then deeded their parcel to their mother, Curtis's widow. Charlotte Waters Cory lived in the mansion until she died in 1902. The mansion was sold in 1908.

In contrast to the Cory farmhouse down the road, which stayed in that branch of the family for 120 years, the Curtis W. Cory mansion was in his branch of the Cory family for only 35 years. The ensuing years have not been good for the mansion.

From the 1908 sale until just before World War Two, the house had a number of owners. Before and during the war, it served as an off-post rooming house for soldiers from nearby Pine Camp. Pine Camp became Camp Drum in 1951, and in 1974 was renamed Fort Drum.

After the war, there were several more owners. The property became more and more overgrown and the house became more and more disheveled. Marked deterioration was noted in a 1955 article about the house as part of a series "Mansions and Old Houses of the North Country," originally published in the *Watertown Daily Times*. The new owners featured in the article were quoted as having plans to restore the house to its "former grandeur," but this was not to be. They soon moved on, and the owners who followed were also not equal to the task.

Then in 2014 Jim and Judy Babcock came along. This stately Victorian home may have seen better days, but it is a dream come true for the Babcocks.

Jim grew up on a small farm in Florida and spent 20 years in the Army, serving in a number of locations around the US, including Fort Drum, and three tours in Iraq. When it came time for "retirement" about three years ago, the Babcocks returned to the area and bought the 100 acres surrounding the house. The house came with the acreage.

The Babcocks welcomed me and a friend for a visit in mid-August. Judy was at work, so Jim showed us around. It was fascinating walking the property, looking through the house, and hearing Jim share the previous owner's tales about the house being called the "ghost house." We even left with some fresh eggs – taken from the coop right before our very eyes! – and some fresh vegetables from the farm stand out front.

Most of Jim and Judy's time – and money – has been spent keeping the house upright and clearing some land to make way for their farming enterprise. Their garden supplies the farm stand and a local restaurant; the chickens produce eggs for the farm stand.



*View from the servants' hallway.*



*Three of the five chicken coops.*



*Eggs for the visitors.*

Now there is a shored up foundation, a dry basement, a new roof, new first floor windows, and an updated heating system. Ahead are plans for exterior and interior renovation and restoration.



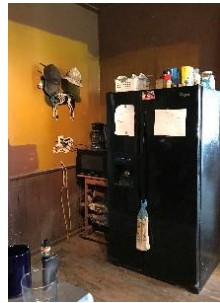
*The third floor ballroom.*



*The Judy Room for relaxing someday soon.*



*The basement.*



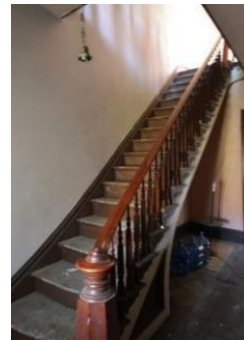
*With 8 doorways, the kitchen is all corners. Artwork by horse loving previous owner!*



*The dining room.*



*Heat ducts in the parlor.*



*The grand staircase.*

Jim says living in the house is but one step up from camping. It is a true labor of love. ★★★

## **DUES NEWS: NO MORE DUES !! JOIN OR UPDATE TODAY !!**

As noted in the minutes of the August 2017 membership meeting on page 6, we voted to do away with the Cory Family Society membership fee.

All who wish to continue receiving the newsletter by email should join or update before February 2, 2018. From then on, just let Carolyn know of any changes. A new membership list will be distributed with the June 2018 newsletter. To join/update, see the Cory Family Society website, [www.coryfamsoc.com](http://www.coryfamsoc.com). ★★★

## A Note from Luke Davidson



Linda McGarvey

Dear Cory Family Society:

I have thoroughly enjoyed working on and arranging the society newsletter for the last couple years. I am grateful for your help, input, and encouragement as we have tried to revitalize the newsletter. Christine Koehler has been helping with coordinating the newsletter since Volume 26, and she has gone above and beyond in working on our triannual newsletter. I am passing the torch on to her so to speak. My wife, Lola, and I have a baby boy, Theo, who was born in January of this year, and he needs full time attention. On top of that, we are now planning on moving from Kentucky to Massachusetts very soon, and in the process of our many life changes, I have found less and less time to work on this newsletter. With that being said, I think Chris's invaluable vision and creativity will be a treasure for the newsletter and the society. Thank you Chris for taking this on.

Sincerely,

Luke C. Davidson

### The Cory Family Society

	<p><b>ABOUT THE SOCIETY</b>          Formed over 30 years ago, the Cory Family Society welcomes anyone interested in Cory, Corey, Corry, Corrie, etc. genealogy. Our goal is to celebrate our family ties, honor our ancestors, and leave knowledge for those who come after us. For more information, see our website: <a href="http://www.coryfamsoc.com">www.coryfamsoc.com</a></p>
<p><b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>  <b>2017-2019</b></p>	<p><b>President</b> - John Corey (John of Southold) lives in NY. <a href="mailto:president@coryfamsoc.com">president@coryfamsoc.com</a>  <b>Past President</b> - Fred Corey. (William of Portsmouth) lives in AZ. <a href="mailto:pastpresident@coryfamsoc.com">pastpresident@coryfamsoc.com</a>  <b>Vice President/Webmaster/Meeting Coordinator</b> - Earl Cory (Thomas of Chelmsford/Harpole) lives in CA. <a href="mailto:webmaster@coryfamsoc.com">webmaster@coryfamsoc.com</a>  <b>Secretary</b> - Carolyn Corey (William of Portsmouth) lives in MT. <a href="mailto:secretary@coryfamsoc.com">secretary@coryfamsoc.com</a>  <b>Treasurer</b> - Christina Cory lives in CA. <a href="mailto:treasurer@coryfamsoc.com">treasurer@coryfamsoc.com</a>  <b>DNA Project Coordinator</b> - Thomas Corey (William of Portsmouth) lives in NE. <a href="mailto:genealogist@coryfamsoc.com">genealogist@coryfamsoc.com</a>  <b>Newsletter Editor</b> - Christine Koehler (John of Southold) lives in NY. <a href="mailto:editor@coryfamsoc.com">editor@coryfamsoc.com</a>  <b>Newsletter Assistant Editor</b> - Luke Davidson (John of Southold) lives in KY. <a href="mailto:assistanteditor@coryfamsoc.com">assistanteditor@coryfamsoc.com</a></p>